

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 18-27 are currently pending. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 18 and 20-27 are amended without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce the unamended claims in this or another application. New claims 28 and 29 are introduced upon entry of this amendment. Claims 18-29 are thus pending following entry of this amendment.

The amended and new claims are supported throughout the specification, including, for example, page 18, lines 11-22.

The amended claims are not narrowed in scope relative to the original claims, as they simply make explicit what was previously implicit. The amended claims are thus entitled to the same scope of equivalents as the original claims.

II. Amendments to the Specification/Objections to the Specification

The title and abstract of the application have been amended to more closely correspond to the currently claimed subject matter. The text for the new abstract is supported, for example, at page 8, lines 22-31 and example 2. This amendment thus introduces no new matter.

A new section entitled "Cross-References to Related Applications" has been added. The added language, including the incorporation statement, is consistent with the instructions to add such language as included on the transmittal letter submitted with the application as filed. This amendment thus adds no new matter.

III. Objections and Rejections to the Claims

The Examiner requests clarification regarding the type of actin that is purified. In response it is first noted that "actin" can exist in various forms, including, but not limited to, globular actin (G-actin), which is the monomeric form of actin, and filamentous actin (F-actin), which is a polymerized form of actin. The term is thus a generic for different forms of actin.

The currently claimed methods can be utilized to obtain different forms of actin, including both purified G-actin and F-actin. As claim 18 indicates, the currently claimed methods involve the addition of a magnesium salt to a solution of G-actin such that the G-actin polymerizes to form actin paracrystals, which can subsequently be recovered as purified actin (see, e.g., page 8, lines 21-31). The collected actin paracrystals can optionally then be depolymerized to yield purified G-actin (see, e.g., page 18, lines 10-20; see also claim 28). The resulting purified G-actin can also optionally be repolymerized to obtain purified F-actin (see, e.g., page 18, lines 21-22; see also claim 29).

Claim 18 is rejected because it lacks a step of recovering purified actin. The claim has been amended to address this concern. Claim 20 is rejected as lacking clarity because the claim is said not to indicate what role the magnesium has in the method. Claim 18 upon which claim 20 depends has been amended to clarify that the addition of magnesium salt results in G-actin polymerizing to form actin paracrystals. It is thus submitted that the role of magnesium is clear. The phrase "is used" has also been deleted to address this rejection.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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